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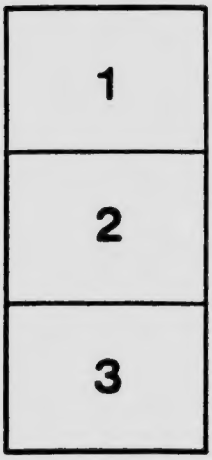

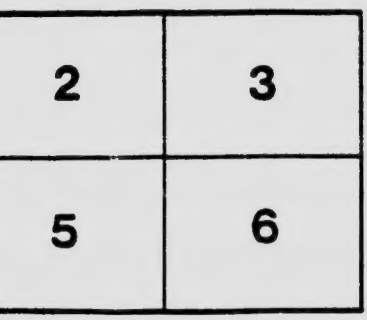

The GOVERNOR GENERAL'S APPEAL *through the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, December 12, 1907, to the* WOMEN OF CANADA *to celebrate the 300th Birthday of Canada by the nationalization of the Battlefields of Quebec.*

I wonder whether you ladies have ever realized the various emotions that pass through the mind of the immigrant to Canada, as the vessel on which he is a passenger steams up the stately St. Lawrence to Montreal. Remember that the first impression received by the immigrant to the United States is conveyed to him by the Statue of Liberty, placed by the bounty of France at the entrance of the harbour of New York. The message conveyed to him by the ever-burning light of liberty, fills his heart with hope and generous emotions. Contrast this experience with that of the immigrant to Montreal. When he passes Quebec, with mind aglow with expectation, and looks up to the Plains of Abraham, where the fate of America was decided, and the foundation of Greater Britain was laid, he sees no inspiring monument speaking of welcome and hope, but only a building associated with all that is darkest in the life of Canada, a black, frowning gaol, and that gaol standing upon the very ground where Wolfe gave up his life. **THERE IS NO MORE SACRED SPOT OF EARTH ON THE WHOLE OF THIS AMERICAN CONTINENT.**

LADIES, IT IS PART OF YOUR WORK NOT TO REST CONTENT UNTIL THAT POLLUTING GAOL HAS BEEN REMOVED TO SOME OTHER AND MORE APPROPRIATE SITUATION.

Next year, as you are aware, is the 300th anniversary of the founding of Quebec by Champlain. It has been suggested by a committee appointed by Mr. Garneau, the Mayor of Quebec, consisting of Chief Justice Sir F. Langelier, Mr. Taché and Col. Wood, that the Champlain Tercentenary should be celebrated by the consecration of the famous battlefields of Quebec. This suggestion has received the warm approval of Mr. Gouin, the Premier of the Province of Quebec, and of Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

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The battlefield of Ste. Foy, where the French in 1760, after a desperate and bloody battle defeated the British, and whence they would have recaptured Quebec, if the British fleet had not suddenly appeared, adjoins the Plains of Abraham.

It is proposed to include the more important parts of the two battlefields in a National Park. Thus, battles in which the contending races were alternately victorious, and in both of which the victor and the vanquished were entitled to equal honour, will be fittingly commemorated.

It is owing to the action of His Majesty The King in establishing the Entente Cordiale with France, and to the love which he inspires in the heart of every French, as well as of every English Canadian, that the times are at last favourable to the removal from the Plains of Abraham of the buildings which now disgrace and disfigure them, and to their preservation in a shape which will gratify every man of English descent, whether British or American.

It is generally admitted that the capture of Quebec in 1759 paved the way for the declaration of Independence in 1775. The Plains of Abraham, when they are properly cared for, will be the **MECCA OF EVERY AMERICAN AS WELL AS OF EVERY BRITON.**

The proposal to celebrate the 300th birthday of Canada, by the consecration of the battlefields, has met with universal approval. It is hoped that appropriations from the Federal and provincial legislatures will be obtained in order to celebrate the anniversary in a manner worthy of the occasion, but in addition to the Parliamentary grants that may be forthcoming, a large additional sum will be required to put the battlefields into a condition which will satisfy the historic sentiment of all concerned.

Money has to be found for the removal of the gaol and the rifle factory, and other buildings which deface and desecrate the battlefields, for the purchase of certain lands, for the building of a museum for historical relics, for the construction of an avenue round the battlefields, overlooking on one side the St. Lawrence, and on the other the valley of the River St. Charles. This avenue would be about five miles in length, and for historical interest and natural beauty, would probably be unique.

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I also hope that it may be possible to erect on the point of Quebec, first visible to a steamer coming up the St. Lawrence, a colossal statue of the Angel of Welcome and Peace, with arms outstretched, offering to clasp to her heart every new arrival from Europe.

Ladies, I believe it only requires determined and systematic organization to secure from individual subscribers the $1,000,000, or whatever sum may be required, for the complete realization of these schemes.

At the present moment, **THE ONLY MEMORIAL TO WOLFE IS A SMALL COLUMN ERECTED BY THE RANK AND FILE OF THE BRITISH ARMY, QUARTERED IN CANADA, IN 1849. THESE GALLANT SOLDIERS SACRIFICED A DAY'S PAY IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT DO HONOUR TO THE MEMORY OF WOLFE**, and in so doing have given an example which I hope will touch the heart of thousands of Britons, not only in Canada, but in every part of the world.

Do you not think the women of Canada, in response to an appeal made to them, would be only too glad to **OBTAIN FROM THE RANK AND FILE OF THE DOMINION**, the sum required to celebrate the 300th birthday of Canada by the consecration of the Battlefields.

When I visited the States last year, nothing made a deeper impression on me than my visit to Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington. Every care had been taken to preserve the house and its surroundings in the same state of dignified and orderly simplicity as obtained during the life-time of George Washington.

It is impossible for any thoughtful person to pay a visit to Mount Vernon, without the mind and heart being affected by the contemplation of the great and noble qualities that distinguished that remarkable man. The influence which issues from Mount Vernon, is a force which makes for patriotism and manly righteousness. It would be difficult to overestimate the value of this influence, or the debt which the American people owe to those who had the heart and the energy to save the home of Washington from destruction. **IT WAS THE PATRIOTIC IMPULSE AND THE COURAGE OF A SINGLE WOMAN,**

ANN PAMELA CUNNINGHAM OF SOUTH CAROLINA, THAT SAVED THE HOME OF WASHINGTON AS A PERMANENT SHRINE OF PATRIOTISM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. Outraged by the refusal of Congress to vote the sum required for the nationalization of Mount Vernon at the time when it was offered for sale, Ann Pamela Cunningham appealed single-handed to the women of America, and obtained through them the money that was required—**THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN CONSIDERING IT A PRIVILEGE TO BE ALLOWED TO CONTRIBUTE FIVE CENTS.**

I DO NOT THINK I AM MAKING A MISTAKE IN BELIEVING THE WOMEN OF CANADA HAVE A PATRIOTISM AND A COURAGE EQUAL TO THAT OF THE WOMEN OF AMERICA. The privilege of contributing to a fund in honour of the sacred ground where the foundation of Greater Britain was laid, will, I am confident, appeal to thousands in all parts of the world, as well as in Canada. All that is required is some organization which will bring this privileged opportunity to the knowledge of those who will consider it an honour to be allowed to associate themselves, through the medium of a dollar or a quarter, with the birthday of Canada, and the battlefields of Quebec; and if this Women's Canadian Club has sufficient spirit among its members to give birth to such an organization, you will secure for yourselves a permanent place in the ranks of those whose glory it is that they have served their country and their King, not only loyally, but well. In conclusion, I am very pleased to have the privilege of repeating to you a most gracious message which I have just received from His Majesty the King, this conveyed in a cable to me from Sir Dighton Probyn, which is worded as follows:—

'THE KING COMMANDS ME TO TELEGRAPH HIS APPROVAL OF THE SCHEME FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHAMPLAIN TERCENTENARY, AND TO SAY THAT HIS MAJESTY WILL GLADLY SUBSCRIBE ONE HUNDRED GUINEAS TOWARDS THE FUND YOU ARE RAISING FOR THIS GOOD OBJECT.'